

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**TOWN OF GRAFTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
October 19, 2015**

MINUTES

The Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Grafton was held on Monday, October 19, 2015 in the Auditorium of the Grafton High School at 7:30 p.m.

Upon order of the Moderator Raymond Mead, 217 Brigham Hill Road, checkers were stationed at the entrances to the hall, using voting lists on which to check the names of those persons who entered.

The Moderator opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed all present.

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Craig Dauphinais led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Mead advised all present of the procedures used during Town Meeting.

Mr. Mead then appointed David Robbins, 92 George Hill Road as Deputy Moderator.

Mr. Mead recognized Ginny Kremer, Town Counsel, Town Clerk, Donna Girouard, and Representative David Muradian.

Moderator Raymond Mead invited Representative Muradian to speak and update everyone about the capital city.

Town Clerk, Donna Girouard read the return of the warrant.

ARTICLE 1. RECEIVE REPORTS OF OFFICES, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to receive the reports of the several Town Officers, Boards and Committees without taking any other action thereon.

John Bechard, 3 Countryside Road, gave a brief presentation on behalf of the DPW Facility Building Committee.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 2. ADJUST FY16 OPERATING BUDGET

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to adjust the FY16 budget as follows:

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

AMOUNT:	TRANSFER FROM:	TRANSFER TO:
\$500	Town Administrator Salaries	Treasurer/Collector Salaries
\$4,000	Planning Expenses	Planning Salaries
\$4,056	Conservation Salaries	Clerk Salaries
\$11,000	School Sewer Lines	SGES Library Renovation
\$19,556	TOTAL	

APPROPRIATE:

AMOUNT:	ACCOUNT
\$93,917	School Department
\$29,200	Town Administrator Expenses (Jensen Hughes)
\$50,000	Retirement of Debt
\$88,583.86	Debt Interest
\$6,000	Copiers
\$1,000	Audit
\$500	SGCH Expenses
\$1,300	Clerk Salaries
\$270,500.86	TOTAL

And to meet said appropriation, raise and appropriate \$131,917.00 and raise \$138,583.86 from sewer rates.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 3. PRIOR FISCAL YEAR BILLS

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to pay bills incurred in a prior fiscal year from Free Cash, as follows:

Department	Vendor	Amount
Recreation	Rhode Island Novelty	\$35.46
Fire	Grafton Water District	\$2,740.54
Health Insurance	NFP	\$1,200.00
Veterans	Dell	\$526.80
Treasurer	Asure Software	\$26.96
School	Grafton Sewer	\$14,137.50
Municipal	Grafton Sewer	\$962.00
Streetlights	Kearsage	\$5,483.36
Town Clerk	University Products	\$306.24
GEMA	Verizon	\$50.78
Legal	Judith Yogman	\$114.00

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required nine-tenths vote.

ARTICLE 4. LEASE PORTION OF 104 CREEPER HILL ROAD

Upon motion of Dennis Flynn, it was voted to enter into a long-term lease for a portion of 104 Creeper Hill Road for the development of a cell phone tower on terms and conditions that they deem are in the best interests of the Town.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 5. SUPER PARK APPROPRIATION

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to appropriate from the overlay surplus account Two-hundred and Ninety-thousand dollars (\$290,000.00) for the creation and construction of a play structure and associated equipment and surrounding park facility at the Perrault Property (4-6 Upton Street).

Super Park Study Committee members, Gina Dalan, Jennifer Thomas, Abigail Cross and Mike Scully gave a brief presentation on behalf of the Committee.

The Finance Committee advised that they were not in support of the article.

Community Preservation Committee member, Sargon Hanna spoke on behalf of the committee.

Capital Improvement Planning Committee Chairman, Robert Nault, spoke on behalf of the committee.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 6. FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREMENT

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to appropriate \$5,000 from Free Cash and transfer same to the Fire Department Retirement Account.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 7. SICK AND VACTION BUYBACK

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to appropriate \$49,450 from Free Cash, to fund the buyback of accumulated sick and vacation leave for retiring employees pursuant to the Town By-Laws and/or collective bargaining agreements.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 8. FUNDING FOR FOLLETTE STREET WELL PROJECT

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to appropriate \$25,000 from Free Cash to the Follette Street Well Project Account for the purpose of funding the Follette Street Well Project, pursuant to Article 10 of the warrant for the May 11, 2009 Special Town Meeting.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 9. TRANSFER TITLE TO 37 BRIDLE RIDGE ROAD

Upon motion of Dennis Flynn, it was voted to transfer title of 37 Bridle Ridge Road to the abutting property owners at 106 and 110 Old Westboro Road.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds votes.

ARTICLE 10. CPC AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESERVE

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to reserve \$44,948 from the FY2016 Community Preservation Fund revenues for Affordable Housing.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 11. CPC OPEN SPACE RESERVE

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to reserve \$44,948 from the FY2016 Community Preservation Fund revenues for Open Space.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 12. CPC HISTORIC PRESERVATION RESERVE

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to reserve \$44,948 from the FY2016 Community Preservation Fund revenues for Historic Preservation.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 13. FUND FOR CPA PURPOSES

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to reserve \$140,189 from the FY2016 Community Preservation Fund revenues for FY16 Community Preservation Fund purposes.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 14. CPC WEIGHTS AND MEASURES CABINET RESTORATION

Upon motion of Dennis Flynn, it was voted to pass over this article.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 15. ROAD IMPROVEMENT STABILIZATION FUND

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to transfer \$1,506,363.68 from the Road Improvement Stabilization fund to the Road Improvement Capital Expenditures fund for road improvement projects consistent with Chapter 90 rules and regulations as recommended by the DPW Advisory committee and approved by the Board of Selectmen.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 16. STOWE ROAD DRAINAGE REPAIRS AND RESTORATION

Motion was made by Ken Ware, 38 Stowe Road, to raise and appropriate \$850,000 from the Road Improvement Capital Expenditures fund for drainage repairs and restoration work at 38 and 40 Stowe Road.

Joel Schwendemann, Chairman of the Finance Committee, advised that the Finance Committee was not in favor of the article.

Motion was made by Timothy McInerney, Town Administrator, to substitute the motion to appropriate \$50,000 for Engineering costs for this project.

The Finance Committee advised they were in favor of the change.

The Moderator declared the motion to substitute carried.

The Moderator declared the substituted motion, appropriating \$50,000 for engineering costs for the project carried.

ARTICLE 17. LIBRARY EXPANSION GRANT AUTHORIZATION

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to authorize the Grafton Public Library Trustees to apply for any state, federal or private grant funds which might be available to defray the cost of the design, construction and equipping of an expanded Grafton Public Library and to authorize the Library Trustees and/or a Library Building Committee to accept and expend any such funds when received consistent with grant requirements without further appropriation.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 18. LIBRARY ARCHITECTURAL FEES

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to transfer \$17,230.70 from Account #1.800.6199.6279, Library Accessibility; and appropriate \$57,769.30 from Free Cash to an account entitled Library Expansion Design to pay for architectural services for the design and engineering of an expanded Grafton Public Library not to exceed \$75,000.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 19. WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE

Upon motion of Dennis Flynn, it was voted to transfer the sum of \$385,000 from Sewer Retained Earning Account #25-440-145-3590 to the account entitled “Plant Upgrade/Expansion” #25-800-6440-6068.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 20. FUNDING THE MUNICIPAL CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to appropriate \$50,000 from Free Cash to the Municipal Capital Stabilization fund.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds votes.

ARTICLE 21. AMEND BY-LAW ARTICLE 12, SECTION 11B

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to delete the existing language of Article 12, Section 11B, of the Town’s general by-laws and replace it with the language set forth in the warrant.

The Moderator declared the motion carried with 122 in favor and 118 against.

ARTICLE 22. CREATE MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROHIBIT THE PUBLIC CONSUMPTION OF MARIJUANA

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to amend Article 12 of the Town’s general by-laws to include a new Section 23, entitled Restrictions on Marijuana Public Use & Consumption, as set forth in the Warrant.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 23. AMEND ARTICLE 12 OF TOWN GENERAL BY-LAWS TO LIMIT CONSTRUCTION HOURS FROM 7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to amend Article 12 of the Town’s general by-laws to include a new Section 24, entitled Limitation of Construction Hours, as set forth in the Warrant.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 24. AMEND ZBL SECTION 4.4.2.5-SIGN INSTALLATION

Upon motion of Dennis Flynn, it was voted to amend Section 4.4.2.5 of the Zoning By-Laws by amending said section as set forth in the Warrant.

Sargon Hanna read the report of the Planning Board.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds votes.

ARTICLE 25. AMEND THE TOWN OF GRAFTON ZONING MAP-WATER SUPPLY OVERLAY DISTRICT

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to amend Section 3.1.2 of the Zoning By-law by amending said section as set forth in the Warrant.

Sargon Hanna, Chairman of the Planning Board, read the report of the Planning Board.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds votes.

ARTICLE 26. AMEND ARTICLE 35: AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST BY-LAW

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to amend Article 35 the Affordable Housing Trust By-Law and the Affordable Housing Declaration of Trust as set forth in the Warrant

The Moderator declared the motion carried by a vote of 163 in favor and 16 against.

ARTICLE 27. ACCEPT AS PUBLIC ROADWAYS IN OAKMONT FARMS

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to accept the roadways and associated utilities and easements on the roadways in the Oakmont Farms subdivision as set forth in the Warrant.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by a vote of 165 in favor and 13 against.

ARTICLE 28. ACCEPT AS PUBLIC ROADWAYS IN BRIGHAM HILL ESTATES

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to accept the roadways and associated utilities and easements on the roadways in the Brigham Hill Estates Subdivision as set forth in the warrant.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by a vote of 161 in favor and 19 against.

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:51 p.m.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

A true copy,
Attest,

Donna M. Girouard
Town Clerk